

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-18 have been rejected on the basis of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1-18 have been allowed over the prior art of record. Claims 3, 5, 8, 9, 13 and 17 are amended. No new matter has been added. Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Interview on October 10, 2006

Examiner Guill is gratefully thanked for conducting an interview with Applicants' representative, Jasper Kwoh, on October 10, 2006. The rejections of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 were discussed at the interview. The Examiner, after reviewing the claims with a senior examiner who is a 101 specialist, found that claims 1 and 14 should not be rejected under 101. However, the method and computer readable medium claims lacked a tangible result. The Examiner suggested the addition of displaying or storing a result should overcome the 101 rejections. It was agreed that independent claims 1 and 14 and their respective dependent claims should be in condition for allowance. The other claims will be amended to include the tangible result to overcome the 101 rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as failing to comply with the statutory subject matter requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As agreed upon during the telephone interview, independent claims 1 and 14 and their respective dependent claims should be in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 1-2 and 14-16 comply with the statutory subject matter requirement and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 3, 5, 8, 9, 13 and 17 and their respective dependent claims have been amended to include a tangible result. Specifically, all those claims now recite the limitation of “storing simulation information” as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, claims 3-13 and 17-18 as amended comply with the statutory subject matter requirement and are also in condition for allowance.

Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-18 over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that, with entry of this amendment, all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (650) 849-4820.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7010652001. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7010652001.

Respectfully submitted,

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